

**SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
WORK PLAN MEETING  
MINUTES OF THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2010**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Kinsella, Vice Chairperson Britschgi, Commissioners Cooperman, Draeger, Jones and Simon

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Commissioner Truscelli

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bruce Utecht, Kathy Bede

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Parks, Recreation & Community Services Director Chris Beth

The workplan meeting of the Senior Affairs Commission was called to order at 10:00am by Chairperson Joe Kinsella at the Redwood Shores Library, 399 Marine Parkway, Redwood City, California.

**GOALS, PLANS AND CONCERNS:**

**Chairperson Kinsella -**

Homeless Flyer

- Will take steps to advance flyer
- Make contact with distribution points
- Develop communication piece on how to use

Communications

- Would like to receive email links to pertinent information on aging
- Asked each commissioner to check in with their current items of interest

Healthcare and Facilities

- Will continue involvement in both areas

**Commissioner Jones -**

Older Adult Homeless

- Whether to segregate older adults in a separate facility
  - Many do not have 'street smarts'
  - Create a less intimidating environment
- Create a safe place to transition to permanent low cost housing. Contact Shelter Network

Low Income Housing

- Work with existing agencies to find current and new openings
- Have this information available to the public at large

Transportation

- What is the current status of the Redwood City shuttle
  - Is the service being utilized – can we improve this?
  - When is the contract up?
- Transportation between VMSC and FOCC
- Will work at FOCC and VMSC sell parking stickers when program is established

Safety Net for People 50-55

- Low income people this age currently do not have supportive services unless they are federally deemed permanently disabled
- Brown Bag will only serve those people who are permanently disabled 55+
- What does San Mateo County have available to these people

**Vice Chairperson Britschgi –**

Downtown Parking

- Continue research and development of the senior parking sticker initiative including working with staff and other commissions

Senior Quilt

- Plan reception, recognition plaque and County fair entry

Progress Seminar Update

- Would like report from the annual retreat in Monterey

Ledesma Paintings

- Hope the Senior Affairs and Civic Cultural Commissions can work together for a showing of several Ledesma paintings

**Commissioner Cooperman –**

Sentinel Articles

- Will be writing Senior Affairs Commission articles for Sentinel newsletter

Council and other Commission Meetings

- Will continue to attend meetings regarding housing and planning

Respite Care

- What is the availability of respite care facilities in the area?

Foster Grandparents

- Will explore program at John Gill School and see if a coordinator is needed

Senior Quilt

- Work on reception, plaque and invitation to Council for Fair entry.

**Commissioner Draeger –**

Satellite Senior Center site possibilities

- Old Anderson's TV site
- Vacant car dealerships on Veterans Blvd.
- Near transportation

Volunteerism

- Would like to encourage seniors to engage in meaningful volunteer work

Senior Homeless Flyers

- Suggested flyers be given to Police Dept. for distribution

IHSS funding cuts

- How might respite care and similar facilities be affected if IHSS funding is cut?
- Request Council pass a resolution asking state legislators to give consideration to supporting IHSS recipients rather than have them lose funding

Communication with Council

- Present information to council on how the commission is addressing senior needs locally

Facility Scoping Study

- Participate in planning for future building

**Commissioner Simon –**

Commission's role

- To consider the needs of seniors throughout Redwood City, provide Council with recommendations and to support the City's and senior centers' programs.

Work with other Commissions

- Invite HHCC to come to SAC meeting about senior housing

### Outreach

- Will work with Commissioner Cooperman on a community outreach script
- Attend Farmers Market to talk with seniors about their concerns

### **PRCS Director Chris Beth -**

- Recommends, depending on the topics, holding joint sessions with other commissions and submit annual informational reports to advise Council. If concerns are policy related, hold study sessions and then make a formal policy recommendation.
- Director can take SAC recommendation regarding downtown senior parking to City Manager for review, when solid data and numbers are compiled.
- Continue facility scoping study meetings and review final drafts
- Integrate Senior Affairs Commission goals into new Parks, Recreation and Community Services strategic plan

### **PRCS Manager Bruce Utecht –**

- Distributed Commission Handbook to all commissioners
- Will have VMSC staff attend upcoming SAC meeting to briefly inform commission of the positions and duties each performs
- Presented an overview of the Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department focused primarily on the Veterans Memorial Senior Center staff, volunteers, partnerships, programs and funding
- Presented excerpts from Commission Handbook regarding responsibilities, public relations, programming, legislation and education
- Recommends Commissioners attend various events, classes, lectures, socials or lunches at Fair Oaks and Veterans Memorial Senior Centers to become more familiar with what is offered at each site.
- Senior quilt was a great community effort. The plan is to hang it at Fair Oaks and Veterans Memorial Senior Centers, in City Hall and to enter it in the San Mateo County Fair and have it on display on Senior Day
- The Senior Affairs-sponsored Ice Cream Social was a successful community builder that brought seniors downtown
- The senior homeless flyer is an excellent resource for those needing the information. Translating it into more languages will increase its usefulness.
- Downtown parking sticker program is a major effort that can benefit the community and is a work in-progress
- Joint meetings with Housing and Human Concerns Committee, Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission and Civic Cultural Commission have been useful in expressing the needs of seniors and crossing multigenerational lines.
- Senior Affairs Commission's presence at VMSC's 'Walk for the Health of It' event was helpful as an outreach effort by the Commission and is very important.

### **Items for Next Month's Agenda**

1. Election of Officers
2. Further discussion of Work Plan
3. Update Meeting Locations

### **Adjournment**

The meeting of the Senior Affairs Commission was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The regular meeting of the Senior Affairs Commission will be reconvened at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 12, 2010 at the Fair Oaks Senior Center at 2600 Middlefield Road, Redwood City, California.